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HOUSE RESOLUTION 185
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Elder James Moten, Sr. and Mrs. Viola Moten on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in honoring those successful marriages that have prevailed to serve as standards for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 1952, James Moten, Sr. and Viola McClenton were joined in marriage, and since that happy day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, depending upon their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Viola Moten was born on January 8, 1929 to the late Arthur and Viola McClenton; she attended Woodstock High School and was a member of First Baptist Bartlett; upon her marriage, she joined the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Elder James Moten, Sr. was born February 17, 1927 to the late Mrs. Willie Coleman Dennis and Mr. Major Jackson; he attended St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church; and

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WHEREAS, possessing a great propensity for music, Elder Moten diligently studied musical direction and vocalization from musician, Guerice Malone; now considered one of the top Gospel Directors in his community, he has contributed his time and considerable talents to over fifty choirs; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1972, Elder James Moten, Sr. accepted the calling to become a preacher; he performed his first sermon in January of 1973 at the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church under the guidance of the Reverend James Adams; a man of great faith, Elder Moten went on to become the founder of the Grace Tabernacle Nondenominational Church; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong scholar, Elder Moten later attended the Lane Avenue Theological School and received a Certificate of Inspiration of Arts in Appreciation from Lemoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Elder James Moten, Sr. has served assiduously as a member of the Advisory Board United to Serve America, City-Wide Mass Choir, Glenview Community Action Association, and Radio Bible Institute; he has also volunteered at a local homeless shelter and served as District Chairman of COGIC International; and

WHEREAS, retired from Ronco Foods, Elder Moten is now a valuable member of Miracle Temple Ministries; Viola Moten, retired from Dobbs Catering, faithfully serves as a member of the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years this union has endured to serve as a testament to the power of love and family; and

WHEREAS, this couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced six wonderful children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Moten are the epitome of good neighbors, and they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as theirs represent the best of our society, as they remind us of the beauty and value of continuity and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate Elder James Moten, Sr. and Mrs. Viola Moten on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.